22/9,K/1 (Item 1 from file: 20)
DIALOG(R)File 20:Dialog Global Reporter
(c) 2003 The Dialog Corp. All rts. reserv.

01765352 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

E3Expo/Electronic Arts Celebrates Nascar's 50th Anniversary by Expanding Interactive Racing Product Line; EA SPORTS' Best-Selling Racing Video Game to Launch on Nintendo 64

BUSINESS WIRE

May 28, 1998 8:25

JOURNAL CODE: WBWE LANGUAGE: English RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT

WORD COUNT: 1234 ·

ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 28, 1998--Electronic Arts(tm) (NASDAQ:ERTS), theworld's largest interactive entertainment software company, today announced at the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) trade show that it will release NASCAR(R)99 on the Nintendo(R) 64 and the PlayStation(R) this fall. Building on thephenomenal success of EA SPORTS'(tm) introduction of the NASCAR franchise lastyear on the PlayStation, the NASCAR Racing product series will expand in 1998 to the Nintendo 64 platform. NASCAR 99 salutes NASCAR's 50th anniversary bydelivering 31 drivers and cars bumping and grinding on 18 tracks in an immersive3-D ride to victory lane.

The combination of EA SPORTS, the worldwide leading interactive sports brand, and NASCAR, the fastest growing sport in North America, has proven to be anincredible partnership for interactive racing fans. Last year, NASCAR 98 was thetop-selling PlayStation racing video game according to market research firm, TheNPD Group. EA SPORTS is looking forward to another banner year with NASCAR 99 onboth the Nintendo 64 and the PlayStation platforms.

With the rumbling of over 750 horses under the hood and a music soundtrackfeaturing George Thorogood and the Delaware Destroyers, Stevie Ray Vaughn andJoe Satriani in Dolby(tm) Surround Sound, the adrenaline starts to quickly surgethrough NASCAR 99 drivers' bodies as they begin their racing season.

NASCAR 99 allows fans to race as any one of NASCAR's 31 drivers in their respective cars. Current drivers include such top names as Dale Earnhardt, MarkMartin, Jeff Gordon, Rusty Wallace, Bill Elliott, Ernie Irvan, Dale Jarrett, Terry Labonte, Kenny Wallace, Ricky Rudd and Dick Trickle. In celebration of NASCAR's 50th anniversary, historical racing buffs can attempt to grab the checkered flag racing as past legends such as "The King" Richard Petty, CaleYarborough, Davey and Bobby Allison and Benny Parsons.

Parsons, in addition to being featured as a historical driver, providesTV-style commentary in the game with racing broadcast legend Bob Jenkins. Parsons and Jenkins keep NASCAR 99 drivers informed during the race with thesame information that would normally be communicated during a televisionbroadcast such as field run downs, track and driver facts and continuouscolor-commentary during race action.

"NASCAR 99 really brings on the heat for all levels of console game racingfans," said Michael Pole, vice president and executive in charge of productionat Electronic Arts. "The NASCAR enthusiast is among the most knowledgeable anddie-hard fan of any sport. EA SPORTS and NASCAR worked very closely to ensurethat NASCAR 99 accurately represents every aspect of the sport in order to meetthe high standards of NASCAR followers. NASCAR was instrumental in giving EASPORTS access to tracks and drivers to achieve this level of realism. As fansplay NASCAR 99, they will see, hear, smell and feel NASCAR at its best."

NASCAR 99 features all new engine sounds recorded from inside a stock car atactual NASCAR tracks. Depending on the view that a **driver** chooses to race in -inside or outside the **car** - different **racing** noises are experienced. Thus, adriver **view** from inside the car produces more muffled

engine noises, while theview from outside the car is accompanied by the roar of the crowd, the sounds ofother cars' engines and exhaust pipes.

Adding to NASCAR 99's realism is crew chief communications to the driver. Important information is provided during the race such as where the driver is inrelation to the rest of the field, fuel level status and tire wear status. If adriver hopes to stay in a race he must listen to his crew chief. For example, ifan accident has occurred on the track ahead, the crew chief will instruct thedriver if he should go into a turn high or low depending on where the crash hastaken place.

Drivers can speed around 18 NASCAR-sanctioned tracks ranging from road coursesto short tracks to superspeedways. Just as real drivers must earn their NASCARchampionship by winning on numerous types of tracks, NASCAR 99 drivers will haveto face the same challenges as they race through the season. The thrill of nightdriving can also be experienced at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, Bristol MotorSpeedway and Richmond International Raceway. In addition, dynamic lighting andshading applies when a race occurs during the day. As the sun changes positionin the sky throughout the race, the reflection moves around the track as well asilluminates the magnificent paint jobs on the cars.

NASCAR 99: Driver Testimonials

NASCAR Driver Kenny Wallace: "I became an EA SPORTS NASCAR video game loyalistlast year when I was faced with the challenge of racing a real exhibition inSuzuka Japan but had never seen or driven the track. I practiced for that roadcourse by playing the NASCAR 98 game. I was amazed at the game's level ofrealism. It helped me determine how to drive the course when live practice wasnot realistic, considering the track is on the other side of the world. I can'twait to get behind the wheel of NASCAR 99."

Mark Martin, winner of the 1998 Las Vegas 400: "In NASCAR 99 you have a greatvariety of tracks. Certain drivers do well on road courses and some do better onthe ovals. You have to race with a totally different strategy on a track likeLas Vegas than on a superspeedway such as Talledega. NASCAR 99 does a very goodjob of mixing up the tracks and making the driver earn the championship bymastering all kinds of courses."

NASCAR 99 offers split screen racing allowing for competitive head-to-headdriving, along with six other computer-driven cars to round out the field. Insingle player mode, 30 other computer-driven cars join the race. In the Nintendo64 version it is possible to not only race head-to-head, but also with three andfour user-controlled cars at a time. Racing action in NASCAR 99 can become quiteintense with sparks, car damage and wall-marking occurring during collisions.

"EA SPORTS' NASCAR 99 provides a fun, interactive way for fans to enjoy NASCARracing," said George Pyne, NASCAR vice president of marketing. "We're excitedabout the debut of NASCAR 99 during NASCAR's 50th anniversary year. Fans willenjoy the game's enhanced special effects as well as have the opportunity torace as one of their favorite NASCAR legends."

In 1997 more than 11 million people attended NASCAR events around the countryand an additional 183 million people watched NASCAR races on television.

EA SPORTS is the leading interactive sports software brand in the world with a58 percent marketshare. Its top-selling titles include FIFA Soccer, John MaddenFootball(tm), NHL(R) Hockey, NBA Live Basketball, PGA TOUR(R) Golf, Triple PlayBaseball(tm) and NASCAR Racing.

Electronic Arts, headquartered in San Mateo, California, is the world'sleading interactive entertainment software company. Founded in 1982, ElectronicArts posted revenues of \$909 million for fiscal 1998. The company develops, publishes and distributes software worldwide for personal computers and advancedentertainment systems. Electronic Arts markets its products under six brandnames: Electronic Arts, EA SPORTS, Maxis(tm), Origin Systems(tm) Inc., Bullfrog(tm) Productions Ltd. and Jane's(R) Combat Simulations. More informationabout EA's products and full text of press releases can be found on the Internetat http://www.ea.com.

Electronic Arts, Origin Systems, Bullfrog, EA SPORTS, John Madden Football, and Triple Play Baseball are trademarks or registered trademarks of ElectronicArts or its wholly-owned subsidiaries. FIFA Soccer is an official FIFA licensedproduct. NBA, NHL, FIFA and PGA TOUR, NASCAR (National Association for Stock CarAuto Racing, Inc.) are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respectiveowners and are used under license. Jane's is a registered trademark of Jane'sInformation Group Ltd. Nintendo 64 is a trademark of Nintendo of America Inc.PlayStation is a registered trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. Allother trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

CONTACT: EA SPORTS Charlie Scibetta (Sr. Public Relations Specialist) 650/513-7537 cscibetta@ea.com 08:09 EDT MAY 28, 1998

Copyright 1998 Business Wire. Source: World Reporter (Trade Mark).

COMPANY NAMES: Electronic Arts

DESCRIPTORS: New Products & Services; Sports; Equities Market

COUNTRY NAMES/CODES: United States of America (US)

REGIONS: North America; Pacific Rim

PROVINCE/STATE: California

SIC CODES/DESCRIPTIONS: 7900 (Amusement & Recreation Services); 3940 (

Toys & Sporting Goods)

(USE FORMAT 7 OR 9 FOR FULLTEXT)

... recorded from inside a stock car atactual NASCAR tracks. Depending on the view that a **driver chooses** to race in -inside or outside the **car** - different **racing** noises are experienced. Thus, adriver **view** from inside the car produces more muffled engine noises, while theview from outside the car...